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LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to your presidential statement of 9 June 1993 (S/25918) in which you requested me to commence immediately a thorough and full investigation, including any allegations as to the perpetrators whoever they may be, of the massacre of civilians which occurred near Harbel, Liberia, on the morning of 6 June 1993.

It will be recalled that I instructed my Special Representative for Liberia, Mr. Trevor Gordon-Somers, then in Bamako, Mali, to proceed immediately to Monrovia to conduct a thorough investigation into this incident. Preliminary action was undertaken by other United Nations officials on the spot.

Mr. Gordon-Somers carried out a preliminary investigation on the basis of several visits to the massacre site, interviews with survivors and written reports and submissions made available to him. Subsequently, following consultations I have decided to appoint a Panel of Inquiry which will consist of three highly respected and distinguished international experts to undertake a more comprehensive investigation of the massacre.

The Panel, to be convened under the authority of the Secretary-General, would comprise:

The Honourable Mr. Amos Wako, Chairman (Kenya)

Mr. Robert Gersony, Member (USA)

Ambassador Mahmoud Kassem, Member (Egypt)

The mandate of the Panel would be, inter alia, as follows:

(a) To establish the facts and circumstances relating to the incident at Harbel;

(b) To examine allegations regarding responsibility for the massacre; and

(c) To make appropriate recommendations.

The members of the Panel of Inquiry would be authorized to make such contacts as necessary with the Interim Government of Liberia, the NPFL, ULIMO,

and AFL and with any other relevant individuals or parties in order to carry out their mandate.

The Panel of Inquiry would be requested to present its report as soon as its investigation is completed so that the report requested by the Security Council can be prepared.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI